



PATENT
Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 05997.0013-00000

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
Steven W. ABRAHAMS et al.) Group Art Unit: 3624
Application No.: 09/602,254) Examiner: Subramanian, N.
Filed: June 23, 2000) Confirmation No.: 9350
For: GUARANTEE CERTIFICATES)

#3/a
2/4/03

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

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GROUP 3600

AMENDMENT

In reply to the Office Action dated October 29, 2002, the period of response to which extends through January 29, 2003, without extensions, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-4, 13, and 14, amend claims 8, 11, 15, 18-20, 22-26, 28, 30-32, and 34, and add new claim 36, as follows:

8. (Amended) A method for issuing a guarantee certificate, which is a financial instrument representing an obligation of a first party to make a payment triggered by certain events associated with the payment obligation to a second party, the method comprising the steps of:

pooling, into a reference pool, instruments representing payment obligations;

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